

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings with the attachment replacement sheet. More particularly, Figure 2 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error wherein reference numerals "38" have been changed to --37-- and reference numerals 38 and their lead lines have been relocated to conform the same to the specification. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 30 were presented for examination. Claims 12, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 and claims 1-11, 13, 16, and 18-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Ito et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4,691,659).

Applicant respectfully traverses the 112 rejections as the specification, as filed, and U.S. patent application serial no. 10/643,512, incorporated by reference, provides sufficient written description for the limitations of claims 12, 14, 15 and 17. Nevertheless and in the instant amendment claims 3, 4, 6, 8-17 and 19-30 have been canceled. Accordingly, applicant submits that the rejections to claims 3, 4, 6, 8-17 and 19-30 are now moot.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 have been amended to more succinctly describe the invention. Additionally, applicant has added new claims 31-36. Support for the foregoing amendments is found in the specification, original claims, and Figures 1-8. Applicants further submit that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Referring to now to independent claim 1, the same has been amended to include the following limitations:

“a steering input device configured for rotational movement about a moveable axis, the moveable axis being capable of movement in a range defined by a first position and a second position;

a rudder control system in operable communication with the steering input device, wherein rotational movement of the steering input device causes the rudder control system to move a rudder; and

at least one transducer configured to detect a movement of the moveable axis, wherein the transducer sends a signal to a bow thruster control system in order to control a bow thruster when the moveable axis moves in the range.”

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the * * * claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single source must contain all of the elements of the claim. *Lewmar Marine Inc. v. Barient, Inc.*, 827 F.2d 744, 747, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1766, 1768 (Fed. Cir. 1987), *cert. denied*, 484 U.S. 1007 (1988).

Referring to Ito et al., the same is directed to a joystick steering apparatus. Ito et al. discloses using a joystick, a switch, and arithmetic operating means for controlling an operation of a plurality of propelling equipment simultaneously. In contrast, Ito et al. does not teach: "a steering input device configured for rotational movement about a moveable axis, the moveable axis being capable of movement in a range defined by a first position and a second position; a rudder control system in operable communication with the steering input device, wherein rotational movement of the steering input device causes the rudder control system to move a rudder; and at least one transducer configured to detect a movement of the moveable axis, wherein the transducer sends a signal to a bow thruster control system in order to control a bow thruster when the moveable axis moves in the range."

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the Ito et al. reference as the same fails to teach or disclose all of the limitations of claim 1 as now amended. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Ito et al.

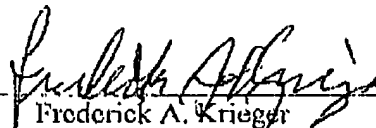
Additionally, since claims 5, 7 and 18 all depend from claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7 and 18 are also allowable over Ito et al.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the office action and that the claims herein should now be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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